

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
estimating of a component gating risk in a manufacturing process, comprising  
computing a mean production value using an altered component plan; and  
computing said component gating risk using said mean production value.
2. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
estimating a component gating risk in a manufacturing process, comprising  
computing a first mean production value using said increased component plan;  
computing a second mean production value using said decreased component plan;  
and  
computing said component gating risk using said first and said second mean  
production values.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said estimating further  
comprises:  
generating an altered component plan by altering a component plan for a component;
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein  
said altered component plan is generated by altering a component plan for a component.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein  
said component is a component used in said manufacturing process.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said estimating further comprises:  
generating an increased component plan.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said estimating further comprises:  
generating a decreased component plan.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein  
said increased component plan is generated by increasing a component plan for a  
component, and  
said decreased component plan is generated by decreasing said component plan for said  
component.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein  
said component is a component used in said manufacturing process.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said estimating further comprises:  
generating said component plan for said component.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein  
said increased component plan is generated by increasing a component plan for a  
component, and  
said decreased component plan is generated by decreasing said component plan for said  
component.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein  
said component is a component used in said manufacturing process.

14. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising:  
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to estimate a component gating risk in a manufacturing process, comprising  
a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to compute a first mean production value using said increased component plan;  
a second subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to compute a second mean production value using said decreased component plan;  
a third subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to compute said component gating risk using said first and said second mean production values; and  
computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable media.
15. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said first set of instructions further comprises:  
a fourth subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to generate an increased component plan.
16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein said first set of instructions further comprises:  
a fifth subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to generate a decreased component plan.
17. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein  
said increased component plan is generated by increasing a component plan for a component, and  
said decreased component plan is generated by decreasing said component plan for said component.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said component is a component used in said manufacturing process.
19. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein said first set of instructions further comprises:  
a sixth subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to generate said component plan for said component.
20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said increased component plan is generated by increasing a component plan for a component, and  
said decreased component plan is generated by decreasing said component plan for said component.
21. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein said component is a component used in said manufacturing process.